ABSTRACT

It was generally accepted that the process of confucianization of the Chinese Law started from the Han dynasty (汉). In this process, confucian thoughts and ethics have been added to the Law to reinforce the imperial order. The Tang Code is of no exception. This thesis critically examines the Tang Code and its confucianist elements.

To begin with, the thesis provides background information on the writing of the Tang Code. This constitutes the first two chapters. Chapter three to five are discussions on the confucianist elements in the Tang Code. These include Jun-Chen (君臣) relationship, family ethics and the differentiated status among social classes. Chapter six considers the influences of the Tang Code on Laws in later dynasties. A short conclusion further summarizes the findings in the previous chapters.

The study hopes to show the importance of the confucianist elements in the Tang Code and its significance in the history of Chinese civilization.